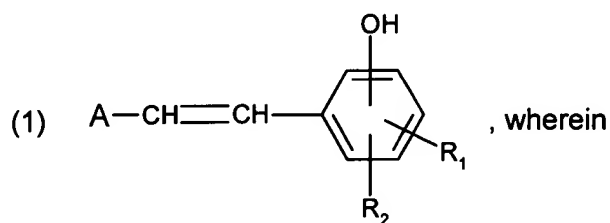
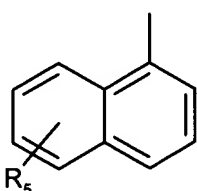
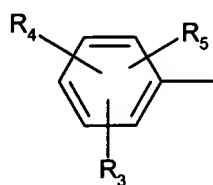


18. (amended) A method of antimicrobially treating a surface, which comprises applying thereto an antimicrobially effective amount of a hydroxystilbene compound of the formula



A is a radical of formula (1a)  ; or a radical of

formula (1b)  ; and

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are each independently of the others hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>16</sub>alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>16</sub>alkoxy, phenyl; C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub>phenylalkyl; C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>aryloxy, amino, mono-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkylamino, di-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>alkylamino, or -NO<sub>2</sub>.

#### STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 16-32 are pending in this application.

Claims 18, 20, 21, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Webster et al. (WO 95/03695).

Claims 18, 20-22, 25 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ashida (JP 10-45566).



Claims 18 and 20-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sheers, U.S. Patent 3,577,230.

Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Webster et al. in view of Grier, U.S. Patent 3,678,168.

Claims 26 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ashida.

Claims 16, 17 and 32 are allowable.

Claim 24 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claim 18 has been amended.

Claims 16-32 are presented for reconsideration.

#### REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 16 and 17 (compounds) and 32 (process to make them) are allowable, and claim 24 is merely objected to.

Claim 18 has been amended by replacement. No other claims have been amended. No claims have been added.

Another version of the amended claim, showing the changes relative to the previous version, is appended. Additions are shown by underlining. Deletions are shown by strikethrough rather than bracketing since the claims may contain bracketing that is to remain. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have amended their claims in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim their invention. Thus, amended claim 18 is supported by the disclosure on page 1, first paragraph and by the exemplification. No new matter has been added.